

SHING TIME STATION(w.t.)

EPISODE #10  
(UNTITLED)

Working Draft  
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Revised 4/14/88

From the characters and series storyline  
created by Britt Allcroft and Rick Siggelkow

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(FADE IN:)

(INT. LOST AND FOUND AREA)

(MATT AND TANYA SIT ON THE FLOOR, BUILDING A HOUSE OF BLOCKS. TANYA FINISHES A SECTION OF THE FOURTH STORY. MATT PICKS UP A BLOCK TO TAKE HIS TURN. HE HAS A LOOK OF INTENSE CONCENTRATION.)

TANYA

Be careful. Don't mess it up again.

MATT

Shhh. Let me concentrate.

(MATT DELICATELY PLACES A BLOCK ON THE HOUSE. AS HE REMOVES HIS HAND THE ENTIRE HOUSE TUMBLERS TO THE FLOOR.)

TANYA

AGHHHHHH! Not again.

MATT

I'm sorry

TANYA

That's the second time, Matt. I don't believe you.

MATT

Hey, I didn't do it on purpose.

TANYA

Well, you should be more careful.

MATT

It was an accident.

STACY ENTERS THE STATION. SHE IS PUTTING ON ONE OF HER EARRINGS AS SHE RUSHES OVER TO THE TICKET BOOTH.)

STACY

Hi kids. What a day. First I overslept. Then I couldn't find my keys and they turned out to be in my pocket. Something about today that I just don't like... There.

(STACY POSTS THE SIGN FOR THE TRAIN TO PELICAN FALLS.)

STACY (CONT.)

I'm late for a meeting. See you later.

(STACY EXITS.)

(DISSOLVE TO: STATION - LATER)

(A NEW HOUSE OF BLOCKS. IT IS TWO AND A HALF STORIES HIGH. MATT PLACES A COUPLE OF BLOCKS ON THE HOUSE.)

MATT

Why don't you take it from here.

(TANYA ADDS A COUPLE OF BLOCKS.)

TANYA

We'll build the tallest house of blocks in the world.

(A WOMAN PASSENGER ENTERS THE STATION. SHE CARRIES TWO LARGE SUITCASES AND A HAT BOX COVER TO THE TICKET BOOTH. SHE PUTS DOWN HE LUGGAGE AND STARES AT THE SIGN.)

WOMAN

Eleven o'clock! I thought the train to Pelican Falls left at noon. I've missed it.

(voice rising)

I MISSED MY TRAIN!

(THE WOMAN PICKS UP HER LUGGAGE AND WALKS OVER TO THE KIDS.)

WOMAN (CONT.)

Do you know how to get to Pelican Falls?

TANYA

Take the next train.

WOMAN

The next train is at four and I have  
to be at my sister's wedding by  
three-thirty. I'm the maid of honor.  
She'll never forgive me.

MATT

Never forgive you. That's awful.

WOMAN

I'll never forgive me. I can't believe  
I'm missing her wedding.

(THE WOMAN PICKS UP HER BAGS AND STARTS TO LEAVE.)

MATT

I don't remember the train for Pelican  
Falls coming through, do you?

TANYA

No.

(THE WOMAN STORMS OUT OF THE STATION, SLAMMING THE DOOR.  
THE HOUSE OF BLOCKS TUMBLES TO THE FLOOR.)

(THE KIDS GROAN. FATIGUED, THEY LIE ON THE FLOOR LOOKING  
UP AT THE CEILING.)

TANYA

We'll never get this house built.

MATT

We could start again.

TANYA

Forget it.

(MR. CONDUCTOR APPEARS IN THE CORNER.)

MR. C

Why so glum everyone?

MATT

Hi, Mr. Conductor.

(MR. CONDUCTOR DISAPPEARS AND REAPPEARS NEXT TO THE PILE OF BLOCKS. THREE BLOCKS ARE STILL SET UP AND HE SITS DOWN USING THEM AS A BENCH.)

TANYA

We're trying to build with blocks and  
Matt knocked it down twice. Then this  
woman missed her train and slammed the  
door and knocked it down again. People  
are really acting dumb.

MR. C.

It sounds like people are having  
accidents.

TANYA

Well I don't like it.

MR. C.

You never had an accident?  
TANYA

Not recently.

MR. C.

Come with me Tanya. You too, Matt.

(HE LEADS THEM TO THE ANYTHING DOOR.)

MR. C. (CONT.)

Nobody knows why the world isn't  
perfect but it isn't. Accidents happen  
to everybody and they're nobody's  
fault. That's why they're called  
accidents. Even Superman has accidents.

TANYA

No way, not Superman.

MR.C.

Watch

(MR. C. OPENS THE ANYTHING DOOR AND WE SEE THE SUPERMAN  
ANIMATION SEGMENT FROM OOOPS.)

(SCHEMER AND STACY ENTER. MR. CONDUCTOR POPS AWAY)

(SCHEMER SITS ON A CRATE AND PULLS A MEATBALL SUB OUT OF A  
BAG. MATT RUNS UP TO STACY.)

MATT

Aunt Stacy. A woman wanted to go to  
Pelican Falls for a wedding but she  
missed the train.

(STACY GLANCES AT THE CLOCK.)

STACY

The Pelican Falls train isn't due for  
another half-hour.

MATT

The sign on the ticket booth says  
eleven o'clock.

STACY

That can't be.

(SHE WALKS OVER TO THE SIGN.)

STACY (CONT.)

Oh no! I put up the wrong sign.

(SCHEMER BITES INTO HIS SANDWICH.)

SCHEMER

That's what happens when you put a lady  
in charge of a train station.

STACY

(ignoring Schemer)

That poor woman. She missed her train  
because I made a mistake. I feel awful.

MATT

It was an accident. It wasn't your  
fault.

(STACY TAKES DOWN THE SIGN.)

STACY

In a world full of uncertainties,  
people look to the railroad for  
perfection. There's no room for  
schedule errors at a railroad.

SCHEMER

(chewing on his sandwich)

Not to mention that you made a paying  
customer angry. That's the biggest sin  
of all.

STACY

There are some things more important  
than money.

(ON HEARING THIS, SCHEMER'S HEAD JERKS AND ONE OF THE MEATBALLS POPS OUT OF THE HERO-BREAD, LANDS ON HIS SHIRT AND FALLS TO THE FLOOR.)

SCHEMER

Now look what you made me do.

(MATT AND TANYA STIFLE THEIR LAUGH. HE GLARES AT THEM. SCHEMER PICKS UP THE MEATBALL. AS HE HEADS OUT OF THE STATION, HE DROPS IT IN THE TRASH.)

SCHEMER

I paid two dollars for this sandwich.

There are five meatballs in it. That's  
forty cents a meatball. You just cost  
me forty cents.

(SCHEMER LEAVES IN A HUFF. STACY TURNS BACK TO THE KIDS.)

STACY

You guys wait here. I'm going to see  
if I can find the woman who missed the  
train.

(STACY SHUFFLES OFF TO LOOK FOR THE WOMAN.)

(MR. CONDUCTOR RETURNS, PERCHED IN THE INFORMATION COUNTER.)

MR. C.

Stacy seemed a bid down at the mouth,  
didn't she?

TANYA

She's mad at herself for making a  
mistake.

MR. C.

I remember a time when everyone was mad  
at Henry for making mistakes. They  
thought he was no good at all. But it  
turned out quite the opposite.

(DISSOLVE TO THOMAS EPISODE #18 -- COAL)

MATT

I wish there was something we could do  
to cheer up Aunt Stacy.

MR. C.

What cheers you up when you're down?

TANYA

I know. When you make up funny rhymes.

MR. C.

Oh yes, words are wonderful. They can  
do anything. Why don't you make up  
some rhymes for Stacy.

MATT

Good idea! Something about trains.

TANYA

Yeah, about what a good job she does  
running the station.

MATT

Okay...Okay... I've got something.  
There once was a train that was quick  
as a flash. . .um . . . um...I can't think  
of anything that rhymes with flash.

TANYA

I've got it. It went off its track and  
had a great crash...Ooops, that's no  
good. That won't cheer anyone up.

MR. C.

You kids need a little help. What's  
called for here is a rhyming spell.

(MR. C. WAVES HIS HANDS DEMONSTRATIVELY.)

MR.C. (CONT.)

Tanya and Matt, now then you speak.  
From your mind to your mouth, you'll  
talk a fast streak. Rhythm in time,  
and words that do rhyme, will spring  
forth from your lips at the drop of a  
dime.

(MR. CONDUCTOR WAVES HIS HANDS AND VANISHES AND A DIME  
APPEARS SUSPENDED IN MID-AIR. IT FALLS TO THE FLOOR AND  
ROLLS OVER TOWARD THE ARCHWAY. THE CAMERA FOLLOWS IT TO  
STACY WHO ENTERS THE STATION.

STACY

That woman who missed her train  
is nowhere to be found. She'll  
never make the wedding.

(TANYA AND MATT RUN UP TO STACY.)

TANYA

You made a mistake but you're not to  
blame.  
Cheer up and smile, get rid of your  
shame.

MATT

Accidents happen to everyone,  
So forgive yourself and start having  
fun.

(THEY DANCE AROUND STACY. SHE BEGINS TO SMILE A LITTLE.)  
TANYA

This station for trains, it runs pretty  
well,  
And on one mistake you never should  
dwell

MATT

If it weren't for you there'd be no  
train station.

We think you deserve a standing  
ovation.

(THE KIDS APPLAUD AND STACY BREAKS INTO A BIG SMILE.)

STACY

That was wonderful. I'm going to find a  
pad and paper and write a poem for you.

(SHE HEADS OFF TO THE LOST AND FOUND AREA AND OPENS A  
DOOR. INSIDE THERE IS A JUGGLER WHO KEEPS DROPPING BALLS.)

STACY

Sorry, wrong door. I guess it's not  
his day either.

(STACY OPENS OTHERDRAWERS LOOKING FOR A PAD AND PENCIL.  
FINDING NOTHING SHE HEADS TOWARDS HARRY'S OFFICE.)

(SCHEMER ENTERS THE STATION. HE SPOTS THE MAGIC DIME ON  
THE FLOOR. HE GLANCES ABOUT, SEES NOBODY WATCHING, BENDS  
AND PICKS IT UP. THE KIDS SEE HIM.)

TANYA

Schemer!

(STARTLED, SCHEMER DROPS A DIME.)

MATT

Did you see Schemer drop a dime?

I feel the need to make a rhyme.

TANYA

A rhyme that's witty and quite snappy,

Makes everybody glad and happy.

SCHEMER

Not me, I hate rhymes.

(looks around the floor)

Dag Blasted where's that dime.

MATT

Is that a rhyme that I just heard,

Did Schemer make a play on words?

SCHEMER

I would never rhyme my words.

That would truly be absurd.

(TANYA AND MATT LAUGH. SCHEMER CLEARS HIS THROAT.)

SCHEMER (CONT.)

You've got me started and I can't stop,

Making my words go flippety flop.

(SCHEMER RUSHES OVER TO THE JUKE BOX AND THROWS A NICKEL IN.)

SCHEMER (CONT.)

This is totally outrageous,  
these stupid rhymes are contagious.  
I'll play a song to clear my head.  
And stop this rhyming business dead.

(INSIDE THE JUKE BOX)

(THE LIGHTS FLICKER ON. THE PUPPETS ARE SOUND ASLEEP,  
SNORING COMFORTABLY. THERE IS A LOUD CLANGING SOUND AS THE  
NICKEL ROLLS DOWN ITS CHUTE AND INTO THE ROOM. THE DRUMMER  
OPENS HER EYES.)

DRUMMER

Come on. Who's making the racket.

(SHE SEES THE GIANT NICKEL.)

DRUMMER

Everybody up. We're on.

(SHE STARTS PICKING UP HER DRUM SET AS THE OTHER MEMBERS OF  
THE BAND ROUSE THEMSELVES FROM SLEEP.)

TEX

What?

REX

We're on?

PIANO

What are we playing?

(OUTSIDE THE JUKE BOX)

(SCHEMER POUNDS ON THE TOP OF THE JUKE BOX.)

SCHEMER

What's wrong with this thing?

I payed good money to hear it sing.

(INSIDE)

(SCHEMER'S POUNDING SOUNDS LIKE THUNDER. THE BAND SCRAMBLES INTO POSITION)

BASS

The Wreck of Old Ninety-Seven. Ready?

One, two...

(THE PIANO PLAYER STARTS PLAYING ON THREE.)

BASS

No. We go on four.

PIANO

Sorry, my mistake.

BASS

One, two...

(REX STARTS PLAYING ON "THREE", FOLLOWED BY TEX ON "FOUR". THE PIANO, DRUMS AND BASS COME IN LATE AND THE SOUND IS AWFUL.)

(OUTSIDE)

SCHEMER

Did one of you kids break this?

(SCHEMER TURNS THE MACHINE OFF.)

MATT

We didn't touch it.

SCHEMER

Well I'm getting my tools. I better  
not have to shell out any money for  
spare parts. I'll tell you that.

(SCHEMER LEAVES.)

(INSIDE THE JUKE BOX)

PIANO

When he comes back we better have our  
gig together.

DRUMMER

I'll say. That guy is trouble.

(OUTSIDE)

(HARRY EMERGES FROM HIS OFFICE CARRYING A SECTION OF IRON  
RAILING.)

HARRY

What's all the commotion?

TANYA

Everyone's having accidents,  
Grandpa. That is except me and Mr.  
Conductor.

MATT

Now the Juke Box is broken. Schemer's  
getting his tools to try to fix it.

HARRY

That Juke, she's very delicate. The  
way old Schemer hurries about, he's  
likely to ruin her. You know, rushing  
and hurrying is the cause of most of  
the accidents in this world. If  
people'd just slow down a little,  
take their time and think things  
through, why there'd be a lot fewer  
accidents.

(HARRY SITS AND FIDDLING WITH THE SECTION OF THE IRON RAILING.)

HARRY (CONT.)

When I was an engineer, I once found my train on the wrong track. 'Nother feller's mistake, naturally. Now what would you do if you found yourselves on the wrong track?

MATT

I'd blow the whistle loudly so the other trains would know I was coming.

TANYA

I'd go as fast as I could to the next station where they could put me on the right track.

HARRY

That's what I thought at first. But then I realized I could use my radio to warn the other trains.

MATT

Trains have radios?

HARRY

You bet. Just like airplanes. Well, once I did that, I thought some more and realized the fastest way to get myself on the right track was to go backwards a short spell. Careful thought and taking your time, that's the ticket to avoiding accidents.

(HARRY HEADS OFF.)

HARRY (CONT.)

Got fix the railing outside before some passenger in a hurry falls off the platform.

(HARRY HEADS OUT AND MATT AND TANYA WALK OVER TO THE JUKE BOX, FLIP ON THE POWER AND PEER IN AT THE PUPPETS.)

MATT

Try playing the song again. Just take you time and don't rush it.

TANYA

Think through what you have to do, take a deep breath, then begin.

(INSIDE THE JUKE BOX)

PIANO

Now that's some good advice. Is everybody ready?

TEXT

(Takes a deep breath)

Ready.

REX

(nods)

Set.

DRUMS

(clicks her sticks)

Go.

BASS

One, and two and...

(ON FOUR, THEY BEGIN TO PLAY THE SONG "THE WRECK OF OLD '97" EXPERTLY. WHEN THE SONG IS OVER MATT SNIFFS THE AIR.)

MATT

Do you small smoke?

(TANYA PULLS SOME FLOWERS OUT OF A VASE AND CARRIES IT OVER TO MR. CONDUCTOR'S HOUSE.)

TANYA

Mr. Conductor!

MATT

Mr. Conductor, are you all right?

(THERE IS NO ANSWER)

TANYA

Fiiier!

(TANYA IS ABOUT TO HEAVE THE WATER FROM THE VASE INTO THE WINDOW JUST AS MR. CONDUCTOR APPEARS.

MR. C.

What's all the commotion? There isn't  
a fire.

TANYA

Sorry. But we saw smoke.

MR. C.

I left some Yorkshire pudding in the oven and forgot about it. It burned to a crisp. That's what caused all the smoke.

MATT

Even Mr. Conductor has accidents.

MR. C.

I have accidents all the time. Did I ever tell you about Henry's accident?

TANYA

Henry had an accident?

MR. C.

Oh, yes. Poor fellow. Quite an accident, indeed...

(DISSOLVE TO THOMAS EPISODE #19 -- THE FLYING KIPPER.)

(SCHEMER IS OPENING UP THE JUKE BOX. MATT AND TANYA RUSH OVER TO HIM.)

(INSIDE THE JUKE BOX)

(ALL THE PUPPETS ARE COWERING BEHIND A WALL. THE BASS PLAYER PEEKS UP AND SEES SCHEMER'S GIANT FACE LEANING IN THE JUKE BOX OPENING. TERRIFIED, SHE DUCKS DOWN.)

BASS

(whispering to others)

He's coming in.

(THEY ALL SHUDDER AND DUCK LOWER)

(OUTSIDE)

SCHEMER

Can't see anything wrong with it.

MATT

It worked fine after you left.

TANYA

It played the song perfectly.

SCHEMER

Well what was wrong with it?

MATT

You didn't give it enough time to warm  
up.

TANYA

Right. You can't just turn on the  
power and push the song button and  
expect it to start playing. This Juke,  
she's a delicate machine.

(SCHEMER LEANS OVER TO THE KIDS AND LOWERS HIS VOICE  
SPEAKING CONFIDENTIALLY.)

SCHEMER

There weren't any nickels in there.

What happens to the nickels?

(MATT AND TANYA SHRUG. SCHEMER STRAIGHTENS UP.

SCHEMER (CONT.)

One of these days I'm going to take  
that thing apart and find my nickels.

(SCHEMER WALKS OUT OF THE STATION. HE PASSES STACY WHO IS  
OVER AT THE NICKELODEON. SHE HOLDS A PAD AND PENCIL.)

STACY

Hey kids, come here. I wrote a poem  
for you.

(MATT AND TANYA JOIN STACY AT THE NICKELODEON.)

STACY (CONT.)

When I was glum and feeling low,  
You brought to me your rhymes to show.  
You told me I was not to blame,  
And made me smile with your game.  
And now because you were true blue,  
I'll show this special show to you.

(SHE STARTS TO TURN THE NICKELODEON HANDLE. THEY WATCH:)

ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN TO ANYONE.

(THE WOMAN PASSENGER WHO MISSED HER TRAIN ENTERS THE STATION CARRYING HER TWO SUITCASES AND HAT BOX.)

(MATT SEES HER)

MATT

Aunt Stacy, that's the woman who  
thought she missed her train.

(STACY AND THE KIDS RUSH TO HELP HER. THEY ARE OVEREAGER, FAWNING OVER HER. STACY AND TANYA EACH TAKE A SUITCASE AND MATT GRABS THE HAT BOX.)

STACY

Let us help you. I'm so sorry about  
your missing the wedding. I made a  
mistake and put up the wrong sign.

WOMAN

I'm going to take the four o'clock.  
I'll get to Pelican Falls before the  
reception is over.

TANYA

Right this way, Madam.

WOMAN

You're all so helpful. Thank you.

(THE GROUP HEADS TOWARD THE ARCHWAY TO THE PLATFORM.)

(TANYA IS SHIFTING THE LARGE SUITCASE IN HER ARMS WHEN SHE STUMBLES AND DROPS IT. IT POPS OPEN SPEWING THE WOMAN'S BELONGINGS ALL OVER THE STATION FLOOR.)

TANYA

AHHHH!

STACY

My goodness.

TANYA

I'm so sorry. I was rushing. It was  
an ...

(Slows down as the familiar word  
registers) AC-CI-DENT.

WOMAN

Don't worry, dear. Everyone has  
accidents.

TANYA

I guess they do.

(SHE AND MATT EXCHANGE GLANCES)

(EVERYONE BEGINS TO GATHER UP THE WOMAN'S BELONGINGS AND  
PUT THEM BACK INTO THE SUITCASE.)

(STACY PICKS UP A DRESS.)

WOMAN

(sad)

That was going to be my maid of honor  
gown.

STACY

It's lovely.

(becomes sad)

I'm sure you would have looked  
beautiful in it. I'm sorry about the  
mix-up.

(TANYA PICKS UP AN ENGRAVED CARD FROM THE FLOOR. SHE TURNS  
IT OVER AND LOOKS AT IT.)

TANYA

Wait a second everyone. What's today's  
date.

STACY

It's the third.

TANYA

Well the wedding is on the fourth.  
That's tomorrow.

(TANYA HANDS THE INVITATION TO THE WOMAN.)

WOMAN

It is tomorrow! What a mistake. How  
embarrassing to arrive a day early.  
Can you imagine? Am I ever glad I  
missed that train.

MATT

So your accident was a good one, Aunt  
Stacy. It stopped her from being a day  
early.

TANYA

I never realized there could be such as  
thing as a good accident.

STACY

Well, sometimes good things can come  
out of an accident

(EVERYONE FINISHES GATHERING UP THE WOMAN'S BELONGINGS.  
THE WOMAN FINDS THE MAGIC DIME IN THE FLOOR.)

WOMAN

Did someone drop a dime?

(EVERYONE LOOKS UP SCHEMER IS STANDING BY THE ARCADE  
DRINKING A SODA.)

SCHEMER

That's my dime , Miss.

(HE HOLDS OUT HIS HAND. THE WOMAN TOSSES IT TO HIM.  
SCHEMER DROPS IT. HE BENDS TO PICK IT UP, THE SODA CAN  
BENDS WITH HIM (IN CHAPLINESQUE STYLE) AND SODA POURS OUT  
ONTO HIS SHOES.)

SCHEMER

I just bought these shoes. Twenty bucks.

TANYA

Oh no, Matt, the dime just fell,  
Here comes another rhyming spell.

SCHEMER

Don't you kids start that again.

MATT

Words and sayings just come out,  
Without a thought, without a doubt.

TANYA

They aren't rhymes that we invent,  
They just come out by accident.

(STACY AND THE WOMAN LAUGH. SCHEMER STRUTS OUT OF THE STATION IN A HUFF.)

(THE DIME ROLLS INTO A CORNER WHERE MR. CONDUCTOR STOPS IT. HE SPINS IT AROUND AND HE AND THE DIME DISAPPEAR.)

FADE OUT: